

From: ross
To: Microsoft ATR
Date: 1/23/02 7:12pm
Subject: Microsoft Settlement

Please help consumers and the economy by restoring competition in software.

If I want to use some alternative to Microsoft products I must first buy a computer with Microsoft products on it, then remove it, then install the alternative software.

But of course no new competitor can ever arise to challenge Microsoft on those terms.

If I make product X and somebody must give Microsoft \$100 before they can even try my software how can I possibly compete against that?

IBM was investigated for anti-trust but never convicted. Still they were not allowed to pre-install their software onto their computers. That was a wonderful remedy.

Banning pre-loads let sunshine down to the forest floor;
An opening for new companies to grow up and innovate.

IBM had been overly conservative, obsessed with foreclosing distribution channels to their competitors rather than producing inexpensive and innovative products for regular people.

Banning IBM software pre-loads made an opportunity for Microsoft. Now Microsoft has grown to be as oppressive as IBM ever was. They seem obsessed with blocking the growth of upstart companies rather than developing anything of their own. New versions of Windows haven't offered consumers anything to get excited about.

Banning Microsoft pre-loads would set the stage for the "next Bill Gates" to come in and do something new and exciting that will capture the public imagination and fire the economy.

That certainly won't happen until the government gives the current Bill Gates an ultimatum -- "Lead, Follow or get out of the way ."

Simply preventing the emergence of competitors might be good for his bottom line,
but it isn't innovation and it doesn't do much for the rest of us who

don't happen to live in Redmond.

Consumers must have alternatives available to them as an option.
The only way to guarantee that is to ban software pre-loads.

IBM survived this penalty and Microsoft will too.

Allowing continued Microsoft software pre-loads would be a government
sanctification of
Microsoft's monopoly and a blessing to go forth and stangle more
innovative babes in the crib
like Netscape.

--Ross Nesbitt